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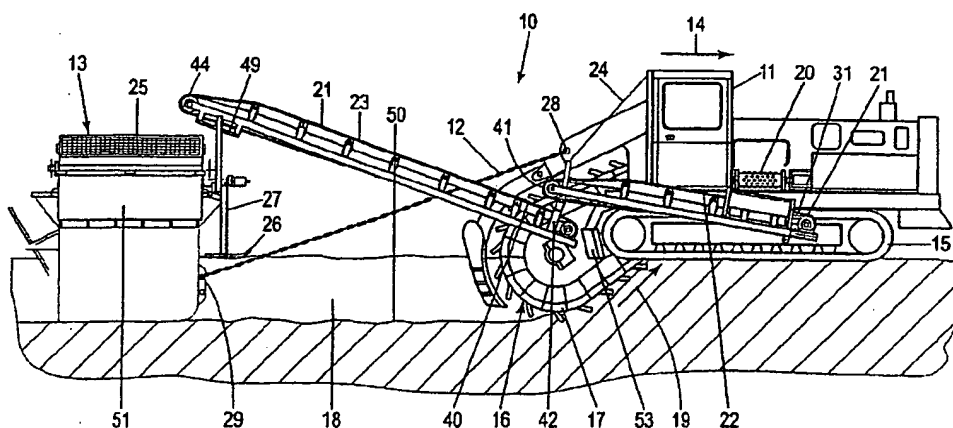
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(54) Title: TRENCH FORMING AND PREPARING APPARATUS



(57) Abstract: The specification discloses apparatus (10) for excavating a trench (18) and preparing a base region of the trench (18) for laying of a pipeline, cabling or the like therein, the apparatus (10) including a trench forming machine (11) driven in a forward direction (14) while excavating the trench (18), the apparatus (10) also including a device (13) for laying bedding material in the base region of the trench, the device (13) being integrally part of the trench forming machine (11) or being towed thereby, the apparatus (10) further including conveyor means (20, 22, 23) for conveying excavated trench material created by the trench forming machine (11) to the device (13) for laying bedding material into the trench (18), the device (13) including a vibrating screen separator (25) for separating fine particulate material from coarser excavated trench material whereby the fine particulate material is delivered to the base region of the trench (18).

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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PCT/AU03/01372

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>		
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched AU: IPC E02F 5/12, 5/22, 5/02, 5/06		
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<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 2000-143158/13, Class Q42, JP 2000008405 A (YOSHIHARA) 11 January 2000	1-5,11,12,18, 21 and 22
Y		23-30
X	AU 35745/99 A1 (LAURINI LODOVICO et al) 6 January 2000 The whole document	1-5,11,12, 18, 21 and 22
Y		23-30
X	WO 98/44206 A1 (MALLAGHAN) 8 October 1998 The whole document	1-5,11,12, 18, 21 and 22
Y		23-30
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex		
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</p>		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized officer  LEOPOLD FILIPOVIC Telephone No : (02) 6283 2105

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 97/04183 A1 (SCUDDER) 6 February 1997 The whole document	23-30
A	EP 626483 B1 (OZZIE'S PIPELINE PADDER, INC.) 29 November 2000 The whole document	1-30

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/AU03/01372

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report		Patent Family Member					
AU	3574599	AU	35745/99	EP	0965697	FR	2780079
WO	9844206	AU	69327/98	EP	1173643	IE	970245
		US	2002124441				
WO	9704183	AU	36005/00	AU	65926/96	BR	0004930
		CA	2232519	CA	2329045	EP	0797708
		EP	1119666	PL	343640	US	5938373
		US	6318930	WO	0049235	ZA	200005792
EP	0626483	AU	34516/89	BR	8903365	CA	2122068
		US	5120433	US	5195260	US	5363574
		US	5430962				
END OF ANNEX							